

Assets of trickster British Indian couple seized

London - A couple of Indian origin, jailed for arranging bogus marriages to facilitate the entry of illegal immigrants into Britain, has been stripped of their assets worth nearly a million pounds.

The couple, Jaswinder Gill, 43, and Darshan Gill, 42, reportedly ran a 'marriage factory' from their house in Hillingdon. They tricked and bribed girls into marrying illegal immigrants, the police said.

Several young British Asian women were tricked into flying to India by offering them lucrative modelling contracts. But the women found themselves marrying total strangers desperate for a life in Britain.

Last year, Jaswinder was jailed for 10 years for helping people gain illegal entry into Britain and perverting the course of justice. Darshan was sentenced to six years for conspiring to facilitate illegal entry.

Detective Chief Inspector Tristram Hicks, from the Met's Economic and Specialist Crime Command, told the Evening Standard: 'I would thank the Indian authorities who assisted in the tracing of assets that had left the UK.'

'Human trafficking undermines legitimate immigration to the UK, and creates misery here and abroad. This confiscation shows that this crime does not pay.'

Reports say that the Gills' victims - who included teenage drug addicts and debt-ridden students - thought they had been hired for bridal wear photoshoots. Indian men reportedly paid up to 14,000 pounds for their brides, some of whom received up to 1,000 pounds. The Gills owned two town homes, a Mercedes and a Lexus.

The police identified 15 sham marriages but believe they were just the tip of the iceberg. The pair denied the charges but a video of them at the bogus wedding of a teenage heroin addict was shown to the jury. After the marriage, the 19-year-old bride was abandoned and had to be rescued by her family.

Gill earned at least 10,000 pounds for each marriage she set up and the cash directly traceable to the marriages was 150,000 pounds. The couple had transferred 496,000 pounds to India and Jaswinder Gill's bank account had 250,000 pounds.

Jaswinder faces a further four years in jail if she fails to pay 850,000 pounds within 18 months. Darshan faces an extra two years if he does not pay up in the same period.

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